

You're a Divergent, Harry

In *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, Headmaster Albus Dumbledore explained to Harry that the sword of Gryffindor can present itself to any worthy Gryffindor. The same sword later presented itself to Neville Longbottom during the Battle of Hogwarts in *Deathly Hallows*. Dumbledore also remarked that the Sorting Hat put Harry in Gryffindor because he asked to be, saying "It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." So, according to Dumbledore, Harry is a true Gryffindor, not because he is inherently brave and courageous, but because he chose not to be in Slytherin. The Sorting Hat obliged, and the rest is history. But what if Harry was not just a true Gryffindor? What about a true Ravenclaw? Hufflepuff? Slytherin? It is certainly possible. In Veronica Roth's book *Divergence*, the characters belong to separate state-like territories called factions. Each of the factions represent different personal qualities and the term "Divergent" is used to describe an individual who belongs to more than one faction. The protagonist of the series is Tris Pryor and she is a special kind of divergent; she represents the qualities of every faction. In the Harry Potter world, Harry possess traits for all four houses, not just Gryffindor.

"You might belong in Gryffindor, where dwell the brave at heart, their daring, nerve, and chivalry set Gryffindors apart." When the Hat was placed on Harry's head, it had a hard time placing him. All Harry could think was "not Slytherin, not Slytherin," and it paid off: Harry was sorted into Gryffindor. Harry is obviously a true Gryffindor. Harry has proven himself time after time as being a brave and courageous individual by defeating Voldemort in each of their encounters. In his first year, Harry knew absolutely nothing of the wizarding world. Despite his ignorance, he was able to venture into the depths of the castle, past all of the traps and obstacles set by the teachers, and defeat the evil sorcerer that has been trying to murder him. When Hermione was petrified in her second year, there was no hesitation in his mind that he had to find out who was responsible for all the attacks on students. In his third year, he

faced hundreds of dementors who were trying to suck out his soul, as well as the soul of Sirius Black. His bravery and courage do not stop there. Much to his chagrin (and the rest of the school's) he was chosen as the fourth Triwizard Tournament champion. Harry had to face a dragon, merepeople, grindylow, and a maze full of creatures, all without a wavering disposition. When he saw a vision of Sirius being tortured, Harry immediately planned to make the trip to the Ministry to save him, fully aware of what and who was there to greet him. In Harry's sixth year of school, Dumbledore finally asked him to help with taking down Voldemort by learning about and hunting Horcruxes. Harry was warned by Albus that the trip would be extremely dangerous, but Harry was determined. Even after Snape killed Dumbledore, Harry remained faithful and went after Snape, regardless of the fact he was severely underpowered and blinded by rage and sorrow. Harry's bravery and courage was most evident in the seventh book. Harry, Ron, and Hermione essentially went on the lamb on a quest to destroy every last piece of Voldemort's soul without any guidance. Regardless of the situation, Harry was the unquestioned leader of the trio and proved it time and time again. He dove into the lake for the sword of Gryffindor, despite the frigid temperatures with the knowledge he may suffer some hypothermia. He lead the charge on to the Ministry to obtain the real locket of Slytherin. They knew the bounty that was put on their heads, but that did not deter them from doing the right thing. It is obvious that Harry has "a bit of a...saving people thing," as Hermione said. Bravery and courage are usually traits found in people who have a bit of a saving people thing.

"You might belong in Hufflepuff. Where they are just and loyal, those patient Hufflepuffs are true and unafraid of toil." At Hogwarts, the Hufflepuffs were considered the leftovers. They were not deemed overly brave, intelligent, or ambitious. If they do not have any of these qualities, what are they good for? JK Rowling, a self-proclaimed Hufflepuff, said they are loyal. Loyalty is what sets the Hufflepuffs apart from Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin. Harry Potter certainly displays the traits that make a good Hufflepuff. The main reason Harry, Ron, and Hermione are called The Golden Trio is because of their strong bond of friendship. Through thick and thin, regardless of situation, Harry is loyal to his friends. Even before he was sorted, Harry was loyal to the first friend he made at Hogwarts. When Malfoy tried to

sway Harry's perception of who is the wrong sort of person, Harry responds "I think I can tell who the wrong sort are for myself, thanks." Harry also displayed unwavering loyalty towards his fellow Hogwarts student, Cedric Diggory, during the Triwizard Tournament on two separate occasions. First off, he informed Diggory about the dragons for the first task, giving Cedric equal footing with the other three champions. If Harry had not told him, it is very possible Diggory would not have been able to complete the task. The other instance was during the third task when he fell down and was susceptible to being killed by a bewitched Krum and getting attacked by the maze walls. Harry had no real reason to help Cedric but he was unwaveringly loyal to his Hogwarts peer. If his loyalty to his friends is not enough, he defended the honor of his mentor, Albus Dumbledore. In a visit to the Burrow during the Christmas holiday, Minister Rufus Scrimgeour came to the conclusion that, despite the fact his mentor had been killed, Harry was "Dumbledore's man through and through." Along with being a true Gryffindor, Harry is a true Hufflepuff. Hufflepuffs are unfailingly loyal to their friends and Harry had such a strong loyalty to Ron, Hermione, and Dumbledore that it was known throughout the wizarding world.

"Or yet in wise old Ravenclaw, if you've a ready mind, Where those of wit and learning will always find their kind." The hardest parallel to draw in the Harry Potter world is the possibility that Harry could have been a Ravenclaw. Through the years, Harry has proven himself as an exceptionally competent wizard. Ravenclaw House prides itself on the wit and intelligence of the students it houses. Harry is certainly smart enough to be sorted into Ravenclaw. Aside from Divination and History of Magic, Harry is one of the top students in his year. Earning an "Outstanding" on the Defense Against The Dark Arts Ordinary Wizarding Level (O.W.L.) test is not an easy feat. Harry was able to go out of his way to learn an extremely difficult incantation for self defense in his third year. The Patronus Charm, according to Professor Lupin, is extremely advanced magic that is way more difficult than what the average third year should be able to produce. Harry was not only able to produce a Patronus, but he was able to conjure up a corporeal Patronus; even some adult wizards are unable to produce a full fledged Patronus. When he was prosecuted by the Wizengamot, the jury was surprised and impressed by Harry's ability to produce a full fledged Patronus, which

took the form of a stag. Another class Harry excelled in, despite Snape's unbridled hatred for him, was Potions. Harry's Potions O.W.L. marks were Exceeds Expectations. Although it would not have been good enough to move on to the Nastily Exhausting Wizarding Test (N.E.W.T.) Level of Potions with Snape, Slughorn gladly allowed him to enroll. When Harry wanted to be proficient in his classes, he was one of the top students in his year. Ravenclaws pride themselves in their wit and intelligence and Harry would certainly fit in. If Harry had put in half as much time and effort into his school work as Hermione did, he would have been the top student in his year.

"Or perhaps in Slytherin. You'll make your real friends, those cunning folks use any means to achieve their ends." Finally, the one house Harry prayed that he was not sorted into: Slytherin. Slytherin house takes their pride from their pure-blood status as well as their cunning personality and ambition. Harry was not a pure-blood wizard by Slytherin's definition due to his mother being a muggleborn. Regardless of that fact, the Sorting Hat still believed Harry would succeed in Slytherin house. Harry possessed great talent and he had the ability to get what he wanted. The Golden Trio are all guilty of having Slytherin-like qualities. In their second year, they were dead set on finding out who the Heir of Slytherin was and would not stop for anything to get to their goal. They were notorious for breaking rules and did not cease after being penalized with subtractions of House points and threats of expulsion. Harry, Ron, and Hermione were very cunning in their ability to bend and break the rules to get what they wanted. Ambition is also a trait that Harry exhibited. Nothing stood in Harry's way when it came to important things like Quidditch and defeating Voldemort. Quidditch is a sport that rewards the ambitious; even more so when the character in question is a Seeker. Inclement weather, outside forces, and brutal opposing teams are all obstacles Harry has had to face in his Quidditch matches at Hogwarts. From the first whistle to the last, Harry is on constant alert for the slightest glint of gold that may allow him to capture the Snitch. Nothing gets in his way. In the ten matches Harry played while at Hogwarts, the team had eight wins to two losses. Those two losses were caused by 1) Dementors attacking Harry, causing him to fall off his broom in his third year and 2) Harry was knocked unconscious by a bludger hit by the Keeper, Cormac McLaggen. In the games that he actually finished,

Harry did not leave the pitch without the Snitch in hand. He fought through a bewitched broom and bludger, dirty play tactics, inclement weather, biased officiating, broken bones, falling off the broom and nearly swallowing the Snitch and unsportsmanlike tampering and distraction from students in the stands. Destroying the horcruxes to defeat Voldemort took an extensive amount of ambition on the part of Harry. He went into the world without the slightest clue what Voldemort made into his horcruxes, let alone where they could be hidden. He went near and far looking for these horcruxes, all without a reasonable understanding as to how he was going to destroy them. Harry was motivated not out of fear, but out of love. An undying love for his friends and peers is what fueled the fire that burned in Harry's heart. The ambition on the part of Harry Potter was kindled by this love. He was not going to rest until all the pieces of Voldemort's soul were destroyed, leaving him dead. The death of his mortal enemy would mean the safety of his friends. Slytherin himself would take great pride in having a student like Harry Potter and, as the Sorting Hat said in his first year, Harry would have done great things.

Harry Potter is not the average child. Marked from birth, a man drunk with power slaughtered his parents and attempted to take Harry's life. That is not what sets Harry Potter apart from other bright and young wizards; Harry Potter is a divergent. His courage and bravery prove that, without a doubt, he is a true Gryffindor. This is a theme that was repeated throughout the series. Only problem is that Harry is also a true Hufflepuff, a true Ravenclaw, and a true Slytherin. Loyalty and love for his friends is what would allow Harry to belong in Hufflepuff house. A recurring theme in the series is friendship and how it effects the plot. Without a strong loyalty to his friends, Harry would not have been able to defeat Voldemort, let alone be able to make it to his seventh year in school. Great wizards also value intelligence. Potter, when he applied himself, was a great student. He earned top marks in Defense Against The Dark Arts, a class that many students had problems with, including Hermione. Harry's Outstanding mark in the O.W.L. test was better than her Exceeds Expectations. Finally, Harry's ability to be cunning and ambitious were exactly what Slytherin wanted in its house, but it was also the exact opposite. Typically, Slytherin students have selfish intentions when using their gifts. Harry used his for his friends. The reason why

the Sorting Hat had a hard time sorting Harry Potter was because he truly fit into every single house at Hogwarts and would succeed. Harry Potter was the wizarding world's divergent.

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